



## AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### CAMBODIA NOW THE FIFTH MOST POPULAR DESTINATION FOR NEW COLOMBO PLAN STUDENTS

Cambodia will welcome 440 Australian undergraduate students in 2017 as part of the Australian Government's flagship New Colombo Plan (NCP) education program.

The NCP is a signature initiative of the Australian Government. It aims to lift knowledge of the Indo-Pacific by supporting Australian undergraduate students to study and undertake internships in the region.

"The NCP has been transformative, providing life changing opportunities for Australia's future leaders," Foreign Minister Bishop said.

"Many participants have also reported that the NCP has given their academic and career aspirations a greater regional focus," Minister Bishop said.

Cambodia is now the fifth most popular destination for NCP students.

In 2017, students from 24 Australian universities will work with Cambodian organisations to share and further their knowledge and skills in a broad range of fields, including law, nursing, journalism and veterinary science.

"NCP mobility students will return to Australia with new insights and understanding about Cambodia, as well as new friendships that will last a lifetime," Australian Ambassador Angela Corcoran said

"These people-to-people links are the foundation of our strong bilateral relationship," the Ambassador said.

New Colombo Plan students will be involved in a range of different projects. For example, Australian nursing students will learn about alternative healthcare systems, such as those available in floating villages. Veterinary science students will also collaborate with Cambodians to investigate animal health constraints faced by smallholder farmers.

"As well as contributing to their academic studies, these exciting projects will be an opportunity for Australian students to learn about Cambodia's rich culture and history," the Ambassador said.

For more information on the New Colombo Plan, visit [www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan](http://www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan) or follow @NewColomboPlan.

**Media Enquiries:** *Lauren Tuohy, Australian Embassy Phnom Penh*  
[Australian.Embassy.Cambodia@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Australian.Embassy.Cambodia@dfat.gov.au), 023 213 470